

REMARKS**A. The Claim Amendment**

Claims 1-17 are currently pending in this application. Claim 4 has been amended, *supra*, to correct a typographical error discovered upon review of the currently pending claims. In particular, claim 4 has been amended to particularly specify that the TRANCE/RANK inhibitor is a compound of Formula I. Support for this amendment can be found in the specification as filed, *e.g.*, at page 5, lines 11-27. No new matter has been introduced. The entry and consideration of the above amendment is therefore respectfully requested.

B. The Requirement for Restriction

The Official Action requires an election of one of the following species of invention:

“compounds of Formula I (I-A to I-I), compounds of Formula II (II-A to II-D), compounds of Formula III (III-1 to III-31), compounds of Formula IV (IV-1 and IV-2), compounds of Formula V (V-1 and V-5), compounds of Formula VI (VI-1 and [sic, to] VI-11), compounds VII-XII, compounds of formula R1-R2-R3-R4-R5, SEQ ID NOs:20-34, SEQ ID NOs:20-30 with amidated C termini, SEQ ID NOs:31-34.”

Applicants understand this to be a species election requirement, and that Examiner intends to examine the full scope of the pending claims and their embodiments. It is understood that the pending claims will not be limited to an elected species unless no generic claim is found allowable.

In order to be fully responsive, Applicants hereby elect, with traverse, by electing the species of compounds satisfying chemical Formula I (including compounds satisfying any of the chemical Formulas I-A to I-I). The Office Action states that “claims 1-17” are all generic. However, Applicants respectfully point out that claims 1-5 specifically recited compounds of the elected Formula I, whereas claims 6-17 specifically recite one or more other species of compounds. Claim 1 is believed to be generic to all of the above-recited species.

Applicants respectfully traverse the Requirement, and reserve the right to petition therefrom under 37 C.F.R. § 1.144. Under Patent Office examining procedures, “if the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the Examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims directed to distinct or individual inventions.” See, M.P.E.P. § 803. The groups of claims designated in this Official Action are inter-related as directed to compounds that inhibit TRANCE/RANK activity, and methods using the same to treat disorders and/or modulate cell activities (for example, dendritic cell maturation, T cell proliferation and/or CD40 receptor systems). The different species of compounds recited in these claim groups do not, therefore, define methods or compositions which are sufficiently distinct to warrant separate examination and searches. For the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully request that the Requirement for Restriction be withdrawn, and that Applicants be permitted to pursue claims corresponding to any and/or all species of compounds set forth in the currently pending claims.

Respectfully submitted,

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